



**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Cook County Building, Board Room, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

**BOARD NOTICE AND AGENDA**

**Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 10:00 AM**

**Issued On: 12/11/2025**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Pursuant to Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code, the Secretary to the Board of Commissioners hereby transmits Consent Calendar Resolutions for your consideration. The Consent Calendar Resolutions shall be published in the Journal of Proceedings as prepared by the Secretary of the Board.

**25-0438**

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION****HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SHARON WILLIAMS-WATKINS TO THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Sharon Williams-Watkins served in various capacities at the Forest Preserves of Cook County from November 2013 to December 2025, being an integral part of the leadership team for over seven years; and

**WHEREAS**, Sharon's professional journey has been supported by a strong academic foundation, including earning a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Business at Chicago State University, and later completing a Master's degree in Human Resources Development and Management at National Louis University - achievements that reflect her commitment to growth, leadership, and service; and

**WHEREAS**, her career began in Human Resources and Accounting roles in Cook County government and the private sector, as well as being an instructor at Moraine Valley Community College where she taught computer applications and accounting principles; and

**WHEREAS**, Sharon began working at the Cook County Clerk's Office in March 1992, supervising a team in the Accounting Division that oversaw the delinquent property tax services. She quickly moved within the Cook County Clerk's Office to the Tax Extension Division, where she was the Executive Assistant to the Director and a Property Tax Examiner, assisting with the quantitative analysis of the tax extension process; and

**WHEREAS**, In November of 2013, Sharon joined the Forest Preserves of Cook County as a member of the Purchasing team, bringing her expertise and dedication to support the agency's procurement operations; and

**WHEREAS**, in November 2017, Sharon advanced to the senior staff team, as the Special Assistant to the Deputy General Superintendent, and then later, with additional responsibilities, becoming the Executive Assistant to the Deputy General Superintendent, where she played a key role in supporting executive

leadership and organizational operations; and

**WHEREAS**, during her time as the Executive Assistant to the Deputy General Superintendent, Sharon ensured that the operations of the Office of the General Superintendent ran smoothly, handling everything from office management to managing the departmental budget to addressing health and safety matters; and

**WHEREAS**, Sharon provided vital support to the General Superintendent, Deputy General Superintendent, and key units including Legislative and Governmental Affairs, Communications, Strategic Initiatives, and the Volunteer Resources Center. Her efforts were instrumental in ensuring the seamless operation of the Office of the General Superintendent and the continued delivery of essential services across the Forest Preserves; and

**WHEREAS**, Sharon served as the Forest Preserves' administrator for the Board agenda process, playing a key role in reviewing each Board item to ensure organization, accuracy, completeness, and adherence to deadlines. Her attention to detail and strong communication skills set a new standard of quality for Board Agenda Item by delivering more reader-friendly Board agenda items for the President, the Commissioners, the Secretary, and the public. She trained and guided Forest Preserves departments on the effective use of Legistar, the information technology tool used to create, organize, and track Board agenda items, helping staff navigate the development, submission, and approval process. She also worked closely with the Secretary of the Board to organize and submit the monthly agenda for final processing; and

**WHEREAS**, Sharon also collaborated closely with the Secretary of the Board's team, Cook County Bureau of Technology, private vendors, and a cross-functional team to design the layout and flow for offsite Board meetings. Her attention to detail and thoughtful designs made it possible to hold Board meetings closer to nature and the Forest Preserves' amenities. Her work laid the logistical foundation for these meetings and opportunities for Commissioners to engage with the professionals at the Forest Preserves and experience beautification across its diverse settings; and

**WHEREAS**, Sharon was pivotal during the early years of the Conservation and Policy Council. In addition to coordinating spaces and schedules for quarterly meetings among the General and Deputy General Superintendents and the Council members, she assisted the Deputy General Superintendent with member communication, especially during critical times such as the Pandemic and in the lead up to the Referendum; and

**WHEREAS**, Sharon was also an early member of the Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee helping to add substance and structure to the Forest Preserve's commitment to actively working toward equity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace, with partners, in the community and throughout Cook

County; and

**WHEREAS**, Sharon consistently brought a spirit of positivity and collaboration to every space she entered. She was always quick to lend a hand to her colleagues, often stepping in to assist with challenges beyond her formal responsibilities. Her commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive work environment helped strengthen team morale and build a strong sense of camaraderie; and

**WHEREAS**, Sharon is a published author and plans to use her retirement to publish additional books, while enjoying quality time with her husband, sons, daughters, and beloved pet. She looks forward to expanding her travels across the globe, volunteering within the community, and continuing her lifelong commitment to public service.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that President Toni Preckwinkle, along with the members of the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners on behalf of all citizens of Cook County, do hereby congratulate Sharon Williams-Watkins on a long career of public service and thank her for her many contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Sharon Williams-Watkins in recognition of her career, contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County and her passion for public service.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Authorization as a public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have registered, with the Secretary, to speak 24 hours in advance of the meeting. To register as a public speaker, go to the meeting details page for this meeting at <https://fpdcc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> to find a registration link. Duly authorized public speakers may speak live from the County Board Room at 118 N. Clark Street, 5th Floor, Chicago, Illinois or be sent a link to virtually attend the meeting and will be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda. Authorized public speakers who are not present during the specified time for public testimony will forfeit their allotted time to speak at the meeting. Public testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. After each virtual speaker has completed their statement, they will be removed from the meeting. Once removed, you will still be able to follow the proceedings for that day at: <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings>, or in a viewing area at 69 W. Washington Street, 22nd Floor, Conference Room F, Chicago, Illinois. Persons authorized to provide public testimony shall not use vulgar, abusive, discriminatory, profane, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony. Written comments will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be posted on the meeting page and made a part of the meeting record.

**PRESIDENT**[25-0242](#)

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Office of the General Superintendent

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Conservation and Policy Council Monthly Report

**Summary:** Created in 2014, the Conservation and Policy Council advises the President, Board and the General Superintendent about conservation policies and practices, including the implementation of the Next Century Conservation Plan's vision of vibrant, ecologically healthy and welcoming forest preserves system.

Each month, a member of the Conservation and Policy Council will provide a verbal report detailing the work that the Conservation and Policy Council is doing as well as their recommendations to the Board regarding policies, practices, and other strategic initiatives of the Forest Preserves.

**COMMISSIONERS****25-0423**

**Sponsored by:** STANLEY MOORE, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**Request:** Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to enter into a Partnership Agreement with the Eugene S. Pike House Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation") and the Beverly Area Arts Alliance (the "Alliance") for the preservation, restoration, operation and long-term maintenance of the Eugene S. Pike House located at 1826 W. 91st Street, Chicago, Illinois (the "Pike House").

**Reason:** This former watchman residence that was built in 1894 has fallen into disrepair and requires significant expenditure to restore the building. Under the proposed agreement, the building and adjacent yard area, approximately 0.3 acres (the "Licensed Area"), would be restored and maintained by the

Foundation and the Alliance as a community center at no cost to the Forest Preserves for uses that support the Forest Preserves mission by providing nature-based education, recreation and cultural opportunities.

The critical repairs necessary to stabilize and preserve the Pike House would need to be completed by the Foundation within three (3) years of the effective date of the proposed agreement. The Foundation is proposing to fund most of the work with a major grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. All construction, including non-critical repair work, shall be completed within five (5) years of the effective date of the proposed agreement, unless otherwise mutually agreed to in writing by the respective parties. If construction on the project does not commence within two (2) years of the effective date, the Partnership/License Agreement will automatically terminate.

The Alliance will be responsible for the daily maintenance of all property within the Licensed Area except for any trees, including but not limited to, keeping the property in good repair, clean, and safe to the public.

The proposed agreement includes terms and conditions relating to the use of the Pike House property by the Alliance that ensures that programs, exhibits and events support the Forest Preserves mission and do not adversely affect the Forest Preserves or adjacent neighbors. Various types of insurance would be maintained by the Foundation and the Alliance throughout the proposed agreement term, and an annual community outreach plan would also be submitted to the Forest Preserves to ensure there is outreach to Cook County residents outside the Beverly Area for the center's various events.

The Forest Preserves previously issued a Request for Expressions of Interest in connection with the Pike House. Emergency roof repairs were previously authorized by the Board of Commissioners on 10/22/2024 (Board Item No. 24-0371). With respect to Title 2, Chapter 5 of the Forest Preserves' Code of Ordinances (Acquisition, Conveyance, License, and Use of District Property), waiver of license related fees and non-applicable provisions is recommended due to the minimal impact to Forest Preserves land and the above benefits of the proposed use.

**Contract Period:** Twenty-five (25) years from the effective date of the proposed agreement, with automatic renewal in five (5) year increments up to a maximum term of forty (40) years

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**Account(s):** N/A

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final agreement is subject to legal review and approval.

**District(s):** 4

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT**

**25-0400**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Planning and Development

**Request:** Refer to Capital Development & Ecological Restoration Committee

**Report Title:** 2026 Update to the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

**Report Period:** Five (5) Years, 2026-2030

**Summary:** This report is an annual update of capital improvement projects and funding needs for the next five (5) years (2026-2030). Capital improvement needs were identified by Forest Preserves' staff, partner organizations, and members of the public. Requests for new or improved facilities, amenities, and infrastructure can be submitted at the Capital Improvement Plan webpage on the Forest Preserves website.

The draft report and appendix can be downloaded from the Forest Preserves' Capital Improvement Plan webpage via the Forest Preserves website. Comments may be submitted to [planning@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:planning@cookcountyil.gov) until January 5, 2026. The final report will be issued by the end of January 2026.

**25-0418**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Law Enforcement

**Request:** Refer to Law Enforcement Committee

**Report Title:** Model Policing

**Report Period:** 7/1/2025 - 12/31/2025

**Summary:** Report on the status of achieving the goal of a Model Forest Preserves Police Department

**25-0328**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED GRANT AWARD**

**Department:** Department of Resource Management

**Grantee:** Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”)

**Grantor:** The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization to accept grant and enter into subrecipient agreement

**Purpose:** To conduct 35 acres of habitat restoration at King’s Grove

**Grant Amount:** \$100,000.00

**Grant Period:** 8/1/2025 (retroactive) - 5/23/2029

**Fiscal Impact:** \$107,300.00 in direct cash match

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51036.520840; Grant and Mitigation 51010.521314 and 51010.521444; and all future Professional Services accounts

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final agreement is subject to legal review and approval.

**District(s):** 6

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves has been sub-awarded grant funds from the Morton Arboretum via the U.S. Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration Program to conduct 35 acres of habitat restoration at King’s Grove in southeast Cook County. Restoration activities will include invasive species removal and installation of native grasses and wildflowers. The Forest Preserves will also host four (4) community engagement events focused on nature education, seed collection, and a bird blitz highlighting local biodiversity.



Total project costs are \$207,300.00, of which the Forest Preserves will contribute \$107,300.00 or approximately 51% in direct match.

**25-0410**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT**

**Department:** Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

**Other Part(ies):** University of Illinois Extension, Champaign, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the University of Illinois Extension

**Goods or Services:** Environmental education, engagement and outreach services

**Agreement Number(s):** #74000017360

**Agreement Period:** 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2030

**Fiscal Impact:** \$1,250,000.00 (FY 2026 \$250,000.00, FY 2027 \$250,000.00, FY 2028 \$250,000.00, FY 2029 \$250,000.00, FY 2030 \$250,000.00)

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51001.520840

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has had an ongoing and positive partnership with the University of Illinois Extension (the “Extension”) since 2013 via successive intergovernmental agreements. Over the last five (5) years of the previous agreement, this partnership has resulted in the certification of one hundred forty-nine (149) Master Naturalists who have provided over eight thousand five hundred (8,500) volunteer hours to the Forest Preserves; provided an additional twenty-five thousand (25,000) hours of volunteer time leading nature walks, forest bathing activities and other nature-based programs; and the certification of over one hundred fifty (150) Conservation@Home gardens including forty-nine (49) school and community gardens. Under the new proposed

intergovernmental agreement, the Extension will continue to provide educational and public outreach programs, thus significantly expanding educational opportunities for youth and adult populations within Cook County, including the Conservation@Home program. The Extension will also provide professional training workshops for Forest Preserves staff in numerous departments and assist in growing the number of Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners that volunteer with the Forest Preserves.

The Forest Preserves Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming staff will oversee the contract and will work with the Extension staff to coordinate and direct these educational services as outlined in a Scope of Work. The Forest Preserves further seeks authorization to have the General Superintendent approve annual updates or amendments to the Scope of Work. The Forest Preserves shall retain the right to reduce or terminate funding obligations due to budget constraints. Final agreement subject to legal review and approval.

**25-0344**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AMENDMENT**

**Department:** Department of Planning and Development

**Other Part(ies):** Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (“DOTH”)

**Request:** Authorization to extend intergovernmental agreement

**Goods or Services:** Grant funding in the amount of \$176,000.00 to the Forest Preserves for Phase 2 Engineering Services for the Des Plaines River Trail Bridge at the Union Pacific Railroad tracks between Golf Road and Central Road.

**Agreement Number:** N/A

**Agreement Period:** 11/21/2019 - 12/31/2022

**Proposed Agreement Extension:** 1/1/2023 (retroactive) - 6/1/2026. DOTH administratively approved an extension to 6/30/2025 but the Forest Preserves inadvertently overlooked bringing the extension to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A (No increase to original not-to-exceed amount of \$88,000.00.)

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51010.520830; and Grant Funds 51010.29992

**District(s):** 9

**Summary:** On 9/24/2019, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners approved the acceptance of grant funding through the Invest in Cook program in the amount of \$176,000.00, or 80% of the estimated total of \$220,000.00, for Phase 2 Engineering Services for the Des Plaines River Trail Bridge project at the Union Pacific Railroad tracks between Golf Road and Central Road (Board Item No. 19-0370). DOTH's Invest in Cook program helps cover the cost of planning and feasibility studies, engineering right-of-way acquisition, and construction associated with transportation improvements sponsored by local and regional governments and private partners. Work has been substantially completed, but a time extension of the agreement is needed to allow for processing of the final reimbursement requests for this project. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

**25-0387**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AMENDMENT**

**Department:** Department of Resource Management

**Other Part(ies):** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization to extend an existing sponsored research agreement

**Goods or Services:** Research study investigating the first human occupants of Cook County, including modeling, public outreach, and archaeological field surveys of key glacial landscapes contained within the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves").

**Agreement Number:** #74000011983

**Agreement Period:** 3/14/2023 - 1/31/2026

**Proposed Agreement Extension:** 2/1/2026 - 1/31/2027

**Fiscal Impact:** \$299,826.00, per the original agreement. There is no additional cost associated with the

extension.

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51033.520840; and all future Construction and Development funds

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** On 3/14/2023, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners approved an intergovernmental agreement between the Forest Preserves and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Illinois State Archaeological Survey (Board Item No. 23-0223) to conduct a sponsored research study titled "First People in a New Landscape: An Interdisciplinary Investigation of Ice Age Cook County."

The Forest Preserves is seeking to extend this agreement for one (1) year due to unforeseeable shifts in the field survey season, which impacted the original project implementation schedule. This extension also provides an opportunity to strengthen collaboration with Native American communities. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

**25-0337**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** Sutton Ford, Inc., Matteson, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to enter into and execute

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Purchase of nine (9) 2026 Ford Vehicles: seven (7) Ford F-350 Supercab XL 4X4 Diesel Pickup Trucks and two (2) Ford F-550 Regular Cab 4x4 Chassis Diesel Trucks

**Contract Value:** \$581,108.00

**Contract Period:** One-time purchase

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025 \$581,108.00

**Accounts:** Vehicle Purchase 51009.560266

**Contract Number(s):** #74000017119

**Concurrences:** The Vehicle Steering Committee has approved the purchase of referenced vehicles.

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

Piggyback contract based on a Cooperative Procurement Agreement with no MWBE participation goals. The vendor is a certified Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Department of Facilities and Fleet received permission from the Vehicle Steering Committee on 6/3/2025 to decommission fifty-three (53) Forest Preserves vehicles due to age, high mileage, and condition and purchase new replacement vehicles. Twenty-six (26) replacement vehicles were approved by the Board of Commissioners for purchase in July of this year (Board Item Nos. 25-0257, 25-0261, and 25-0262). This purchase involves nine (9) additional replacement vehicles, which will be assigned as follows: eight (8) to the Department of Resource Management and one (1) to the Department of Landscape Maintenance. This purchase request is based on Suburban Purchasing Cooperative (SPC) Request for Proposals/Contract #225 and #227 with Sutton Ford, Inc.

**25-0385**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

#### **PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** 72 Hour, LLC D/B/A National Auto Fleet Group, Watsonville, California

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to enter into and execute

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Purchase of eleven (11) 2026 Ford Vehicles: ten (10) Maverick (W8J) XLT AWD Supercrew Hybrids and one (1) Expedition Max (K1M) Platinum 4x4

**Contract Value:** \$443,256.06

**Contract Period:** One-time purchase

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025 \$443,256.06

**Accounts:** Vehicle Purchase 51009.560266

**Contract Number(s):** #74000017250

**Concurrences:** The Vehicle Steering Committee has approved the purchase of referenced vehicles.

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

Piggyback contract based on a Cooperative Procurement Agreement with no MWBE participation goals.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Department of Facilities and Fleet received permission from the Vehicle Steering Committee on 6/3/2025 to decommission fifty-three (53) Forest Preserves vehicles due to age, high mileage, and condition and purchase new replacement vehicles. Twenty-six (26) replacement vehicles were approved by the Board of Commissioners for purchase in July of this year (Board Item Nos. 25-0257, 25-0261, and 25-0262). This purchase is for an additional eleven (11) replacement units. The vehicles will be assigned as follows: one (1) to Law Enforcement, seven (7) to Resource Management, two (2) to Permits, Rentals and Concessions and one (1) to Planning and Development. This purchase request is based on Sourcewell Contract #091521-NAF with National Auto Fleet Group.

**25-0392**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Legal Department

**Vendor:** Rising Medical Solutions, LLC D/B/A Rising Medical, Chicago, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to enter into and execute

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Workers Compensation Administrative Services

**Contract Value:** \$1,050,000.00

**Contract Period:** 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2028, with two (2) two-year renewal options to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent subject to renewal of underlying contract.

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026 \$150,000.00, FY 2027 \$150,000.00, FY 2028 \$150,000.00, FY 2029 \$150,000.00 (optional), FY 2030 \$150,000.00 (optional), FY 2031 \$150,000.00 (optional), FY 2032 \$150,000.00 (optional)

**Accounts:** Workers' Compensation 51011.580111

**Contract Number(s):** #74000017168 (Piggyback contract on Cook County Contract No. 2423-020911)

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

The Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance participation goals will be consistent with the goals established by the Cook County Contract.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** On 10/23/2025, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved Contract No. 2423-020911 with Rising Medical Solutions, LLC D/B/A Rising Medical following a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Workers' Compensation Administration Services. The Forest Preserves is seeking to procure the same services pursuant to Section 1-8-2(X) of the Forest Preserves' Code of Ordinances. The Forest Preserves' contract will incorporate the same terms as the County's contract.

Under this proposed piggyback contract, the Forest Preserves will receive workers' compensation administrative services. These services support workers' compensation claims management for Forest Preserves claimants and includes medical review and bill repricing, telephonic and nurse case management and related services. A report of activity administered through this contract will be provided monthly to the Board of Commissioners. The Forest Preserves has used Rising Medical for workers' compensation administration since 2020.

**25-0420**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Office of the General Superintendent

**Vendor:** Giraffe Financial, Inc., Sacramento, California

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to enter into and execute

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Tax credit services

**Contract Value:** Not to exceed \$10,000.00. This contract is primarily revenue generating, with revenue anticipated to be upwards of \$100,000.00. Amount payable by the Forest Preserves not to exceed 10% of

revenue generated.

**Contract Period:** One (1) year from date of execution

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026, \$10,000.00

**Accounts:** General Revenue 51001.411467; and Professional Services 51001.520840

**Contract Number(s):** #74000017349

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** Tax credits are available for qualifying governmental and tax-exempt entities undertaking specific energy-related projects. To claim these credits, the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) requires pre-filing registration for each eligible project, along with proper documentation and compliance procedures. This opportunity supports both the environmental and financial priorities of the Forest Preserves. Given the complexity of the filings and the importance of accurate compliance, staff recommends engaging outside expertise to provide professional tax advisory services, assist with documentation, and support the preparation and submission of the necessary IRS filings.

To ensure due diligence and to obtain competitive pricing for the required tax services, staff contacted four (4) qualified tax services providers with experience in elective direct pay filings. Of the firms solicited, Giraffe Financial, Inc. was the sole responder within the response timeframe. Staff recommends proceeding with Giraffe Financial, Inc. to ensure the Forest Preserves is positioned to claim all eligible credits efficiently and accurately. The fee structure for our eligible projects is 10% of the total value of the tax credit with a minimum fee of \$7,500.00.

**25-0425**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Resource Management

**Vendor:** Smits Farms, Inc., Chicago Heights, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute



**Good(s) or Service(s):** Agricultural row crop farming at 20278 Cottage Grove Ave., Glenwood, Illinois 60411

**Contract Value:** N/A

**Contract Period:** 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026, with one (1) one-year extension option to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent or their designee

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** Revenue generation of up to \$11,658.00 over two (2) years

**Accounts:** Corporate Land Use Fees 51001.411366 (revenue generating)

**Contract Number(s):** #74000017316 issued under Project #25RM 111

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

**District(s):** 5

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves has solicited a contract for row crop production at 20278 Cottage Grove Ave in Glenwood. This site was historically used for agricultural purposes prior to acquisition by the Forest Preserves, and as such, does not exist in an ecologically natural state. Farmers will have use of the property for seeding one or more row crops including wheat, oats, soybeans, and/or other crops subject to the review and written approval of the Forest Preserves' Director of the Department of Resource Management. This practice allows the Forest Preserves to generate revenue, while at the same time preventing invasive plant species from overtaking fallow land. It is the Forest Preserves' intention to restore fallow land as capacity and funding allows, and these interim farming practices are a proven method to keep lands in a more manageable condition until a restoration project can take place, thereby reducing future restoration costs. The contract term for row crop farming is a period of one (1) year, with one (1) one-year mutual renewal option to be exercised by the General Superintendent or their designee, which allows the Forest Preserves the option to discontinue farming practices at our discretion in order to restore these lands to a natural condition.

A total of two (2) bids were received in response to Solicitation #25-31-013217; however, the other vendor was eliminated from consideration due to improper submission of solicitation documents. Smits Farms, Inc. was subsequently found to be responsive to the terms of the solicitation. Their proposal will result in a total potential revenue generation over the next two (2) years of \$11,658.00, or \$5,829.00 per year.

Site	Acres	Revenue
20278 Cottage Grove Ave	29	\$11,658.00

**25-0391**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Office of the General Superintendent

**Vendor:** GivePulse, Inc., Austin, Texas

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to extend contract

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Volunteer Recruitment and Recordkeeping Software and Database

**Original Contract Period:** 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2025

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$75,000.00

**Original Approval:** \$75,000.00

**Previous Increase(s):** N/A

**This Increase Requested:** N/A

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026, \$10,000.00 (using currently authorized funds)

**Accounts:** Volunteer Resources Program 51001.521446

**Contract Number(s):** #74000011922

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

The Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance is not applicable due to the contract value per year being equal to or less than \$25,000.00.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** GivePulse, Inc. is a website provider which serves as both a volunteer database and an online volunteer recruitment tool. It is the foundation of the Forest Preserves' volunteer recruitment initiatives and also serves as a volunteer recordkeeping, reporting and communication link. The Forest Preserves requests authorization to extend its agreement with this vendor for one (1) year. The Forest Preserves intends to issue a Request for Proposals for similar services in 2026.

**25-0417**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Department of Finance and Administration

**Vendor:** Insight Public Sector, Inc., Tempe, Arizona

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to increase contract

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Computer Hardware Products

**Original Contract Period:** 10/22/2019 - 9/8/2024, with three (3) one-year renewal options. 4/25/2023, 9/9/2024 - 9/8/2025 (Board Approved); 7/23/2025, 9/9/2025 - 9/8/2026 (Administrative Extension)

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** N/A

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$1,335,000.00

**Original Approval:** 10/22/2019, \$600,000.00

**Previous Increase(s):** 2/7/2023, \$60,000.00 (Administrative Increase); 4/25/2023, \$275,000.00 (Board Approved); 7/23/2024, \$400,000.00 (Board Approved)

**This Increase Requested:** \$270,000.00

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026 \$270,000.00

**Accounts:** Computer Supplies and Services 51001.530635

**Contract Number(s):** #74000006761

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

The contract-specific Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise goal for this contract was set to zero.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County currently piggybacks off the Cook County contract with Insight Public Sector for IT hardware and services (Cook County Board Item Nos. 19-4551 and 19-5255), which has been extended through September 8, 2026. The Forest Preserves is requesting an increase to its own contract with Insight Public Sector to support anticipated technology needs across the Forest Preserves. Several operational and strategic factors necessitate this increased investment, including Microsoft Windows 11 requirements, which mandate replacement of non-compliant hardware, new facilities coming online as part of capital expansion and development initiatives, rehabilitation and modernization of existing facilities, and increased staffing levels made possible by the successful referendum.

Additionally, the Forest Preserves anticipates updating hardware and infrastructure needs throughout the Forest Preserves holdings. This proposed increase will ensure that Forest Preserves staff are equipped with the technological resources necessary to perform their duties efficiently and securely.

**25-0419**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** Village of Hoffman Estates, Hoffman Estates, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to extend and increase contract

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Fire alarm services and lease of wireless radio equipment and associated

specific pieces of equipment.

**Original Contract Period:** 1/1/2015 - 12/31/2019; 1/1/2020 - 12/31/2020 (Administrative Extension); 11/17/2020, 1/1/2021 - 12/31/2025 (Board Approved Extension)

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** 1/1/2026 - until terminated

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$30,870.00

**Original Approval:** 3/22/2016, \$14,700.00

**Previous Increase(s):** 12/31/2019, \$1,470.00 (Administrative Increase); and 11/17/2020, \$14,700.00 (Board Approved)

**This Increase Requested:** \$14,700.00

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026 \$2,940.00, FY 2027 \$2,940.00, FY 2028 \$2,940.00, FY 2029 \$2,940.00, FY 2030 \$2,940.00

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51001.520840

**Contract Number(s):** #74000008461

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

The Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance is not applicable due to the contract value per year being equal to or less than \$25,000.00.

**District(s):** 15

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves is seeking authorization to extend and increase its sole source agreement with the Village of Hoffman Estates (the "Village") for the monitoring of fire alarm systems and associated equipment. The original agreement with the Village of Hoffman Estates was approved by the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners on 3/22/2016 (Board Item No. 16-0118). The agreement was then extended until 12/31/2025. It was also increased by \$16,170.00 via an administrative increase and board approved increase (Board Item No. 20-0417).

Fees for services and the number of covered locations would remain the same as in the original contract.

However, this contract with the Village is a form agreement that contains a continuous contract term. The agreement would allow for the Forest Preserves to terminate with thirty (30) days written notice. Although this amendment would authorize the Forest Preserves to agree to a continuous term, the Forest Preserves would still come back to the Board periodically for the authority to seek additional funds to pay for the Village's services. Lastly, the agreement's terms include non-standard provisions for the Forest Preserves, particularly with respect to limitations on liability, warranties, and indemnification, which includes an obligation to indemnify the vendor to the extent legally enforceable from certain third-party claims related to the vendor's services obligations under the agreement.

North Police Headquarters  
3100 W. Golf Road  
Elgin, Illinois 60120

Poplar Creek Wildlife  
3100 W. Golf Road  
Elgin, Illinois 60120

**25-0428**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Department of Planning and Development

**Vendor:** Microsystems, Inc., Northbrook, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to extend and increase contract

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Documents Storage, Destruction and Transfer

**Original Contract Period:** 1/1/2022 - 12/31/2024, 1/1/2025 - 12/31/2025 (Administrative Extension)

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2028

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$5,958.12

**Original Approval:** 11/2/2021, \$4,359.60

**Previous Increase(s):** 12/5/2024, \$1,598.52 (Administrative)

**This Increase Requested:** \$10,000.00

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026 \$3,300.00, FY 2027 \$3,300.00, FY 2028 \$3,400.00

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51001.520835

**Contract Number(s):** #74000009849

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

The Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance is not applicable due to the contract value per year being equal to or less than \$25,000.00.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** Authorization is requested to amend this sole source agreement for the storage of archival records and engineering drawings and documents in the vendor's climate-controlled facility. Continued storage of these documents is necessary as the Planning and Development Department begins the process of verifying document digitization and determining which documents are classified as permanent and need to be kept and which documents can be disposed of as delineated according to state records management requirements.

**25-0424**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

#### **EASEMENT REQUEST**

**Request:** Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to grant a temporary easement to the Illinois Department of Transportation ("IDOT") at Forestway Drive for 0.13 acre or 5,445 square feet for road improvements. Construction is expected to require removal of six (6) trees. In practice, more trees may need to be removed than originally estimated. Any increase in the tree mitigation fee will be in accordance with the Tree Mitigation Plan (see Board Item No. 20-0279), and if such increase is more than 20% of the original estimate, then approval will be sought from the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners.

**Reason:** The request includes the granting of two (2) small temporary easement areas on either side of Forestway Drive to allow re-construction of the underlying culvert built in 1937 that is very worn and in disrepair. Work in the temporary easement areas would include some excavation and erosion control measures. The Forest Preserves would be responsible for long-term maintenance of the proposed

improvements in the temporary easement areas after construction is complete. IDOT would be responsible for the culvert and all other improvements within the existing road Right-of-Way. The term of the temporary easement is five (5) years, or completion of construction, whichever comes first.

**Easement Fee:** \$2,000.00

**Tree Mitigation Fee:** \$94,563.47

**Concurrence(s):** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final easement is subject to legal review and approval.

**District(s):** 14

**25-0091**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Finance and Administration

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Procurement and Disbursement Report

**Report Period:** 10/1/2025 - 10/31/2025

**Summary:** Submitting the Procurement and Disbursement Report for the period of October 2025. The report is to be received and filed in compliance with Section 1-8-2 (BB) of the District's Code of Ordinances.

**25-0427**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Departments of Legal and Finance

**Request:** Receive and File



**Report Title:** Workers' Compensation Report (October 2025)

**Report Period:** 10/1/2025 - 10/31/2025

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the month of October 2025. Payments total \$86,309.00 for October 2025.

**25-0404**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Department:** Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

**Summary:** Forest Preserves of Cook County Calendar of Events and Activities  
12/16/2025-1/12/2026

Please check the Forest Preserves of Cook County's website for updates and changes.

**Tuesdays, 12/16 & 1/16; 10:30am—12:30pm**

**Cozy Campground Book Club, Camp Reinberg, Palatine**

Join this camping themed book club. *Registration required. Please visit the website.*

**Tuesday, 12/16 through Sunday, 1/4; 4:30pm—9pm**

**Lightscape, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe**

Patrons can enjoy bold, artistic and unforgettable displays that are expertly curated each year at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Bundle up, grab a cup of hot chocolate and step into an enchanting and showstopping 1.3-mile trail of twinkling lights. *Registration required. The cost may vary based on timeslot, age, and day of the week. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Wednesday, 12/17; 10am**

**Woodpecker Walk, Spears Woods, Willow Springs**

Patrons can search for woodpeckers and learn about their role in our local ecosystems with a naturalist. A *Binocular supply is limited and must be returned after the hike. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

**Thursday, 12/18; 1pm—3pm****Natural Garland Workshop, Palos Park Woods-North, Palos Park**

Drop-in and create your own natural garland around a campfire. *The program will meet at Grove 1. Supplies will be provided. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

**Thursday, 12/18 through Sunday, 12/21; 3pm—9pm****Holiday Magic, Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield**

We are lighting up the night this holiday season! We are celebrating more than 40 years of Holiday Magic with a brand-new light display. Patrons can experience the magic that has made this event a beloved holiday tradition. The spectacular interactive display transforms the Zoo into a dazzling winter wonderland with more than 3.5 million lights. Patrons can stroll through themed areas featuring giant holiday displays, a maze, tunnels, and animal-themed lights. *Registration required. The cost may vary based on timeslot, age, and day of the week. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Thursday, 12/18; 4pm—8pm****Winter Open Climb, Camp Sullivan, Oak Forest**

Patrons can scale Camp Sullivan's indoor climbing wall. *Registration required. Participants must weigh over 40 pounds and sign a waiver. Participants 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Accessible equipment will be available. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Friday, 12/19; 6pm—9pm****Winter Solstice Night of Lights, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Celebrate the shortest night of the year! Enjoy a bonfire and a self-guided walk along our candlelit paths. *Registration required. Please call (847)381-6592.*

**Saturday, 12/20; 9:30am****Conserving Birds: One Cup at a Time, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Join us and learn about the Smithsonian's Bird Friendly Coffee program and how shade grown coffee benefits bird populations. *Bird-friendly coffee will be provided. For more information, please call (708)839-6897.*

**Saturday, 12/20; 9:30am—11:30am****Clear the Trails, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

You can't make snow, but you can help brush back trails to get them ready for ski season. *Registration required. Ages 16 and up. This program will be offered if there is no snowfall. Please call (630)257-2045.*

**Saturday, 12/20; 10am—12pm**

**Winter Solstice Day: Paper Snowflake Making Workshop, Thatcher Woods, River Forest**

Drop-in and celebrate the winter solstice by participating in fun activities, both inside and out, including an outdoor bonfire. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

**Saturday, 12/20; 12pm—2pm**

**Winter Solstice Day: Indigenous Storytelling and Reflection from American Indian Center, Thatcher Woods, River Forest**

Drop-in and celebrate the winter solstice by participating in fun activities, both inside and out, including an outdoor bonfire. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

**Saturday, 12/20; 2pm—4pm**

**Away from the Sun, Caldwell Woods, Chicago**

Drop in and celebrate the beauty of winter solstice with nature walks, crafts and warm drinks. *For more information, please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 12/20; 3pm—7pm**

**Solstice Celebration, Camp Shabbona Woods, South Holland**

Join us and celebrate the shortest day of the year. The activities will include seasonal craft making, guided walks and warming up by the bonfire with refreshments. *For more information, please call (708)868-0606.*

**Sunday, 12/21; 9am—12pm**

**Restoration Day and Solstice Bonfire, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Patrons can help remove invasive species then enjoy snacks around a brush-piled bonfire. *Registration required. Ages 12 and up. Ages 12-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Equipment will be provided. Please visit the website.*

**Sunday, 12/21; 9:30am—11:30am**

**Clear the Trails, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

You can't make snow, but you can help brush back trails to get them ready for ski season. *Registration required. Ages 16 and up. This program will be offered if there is no snowfall. Please call (630)257-2045.*

**Sunday, 12/21; 1pm—3pm**

**Science of Snow, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Drop in and discover the science of snow and create your own snowflake. *This program is presented by*

*Anna Villanyi's Snowflakes and more. For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

**Sunday, 12/21; 5pm—7pm****Winter Solstice Celebration, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Celebrate the Winter Solstice by connecting with nature on the longest night of the year! Patrons can enjoy the winter night by taking a peaceful, self-guided stroll along the serene Farm Pond Trail. Patrons can relax around a crackling bonfire with s'mores and hot cocoa. *Registration required. Patrons should bring a reusable mug to reduce waste. Please call (708)839-6897.*

**Tuesday, 12/23; 10am—3pm****Fun with Fossils, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Drop in and learn all about fossils, make a replica fossil and peruse some of our best fossils. *Ages 4 and up. For more information, please call (708)366-6530.*

**Tuesday, 12/23; 11am—2pm****Winter Exploration Day, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Chicago**

Patrons can enjoy snow shoeing, nature hikes, art making, campfires and more. *Snowshoeing depends on the weather and snow depth. For more information, please call (224) 763-4317 or visit the website.*

**Saturday, 12/27; 8am—10pm****Feeder Watch and Origami, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Participants can observe bird feeders while making nature-based origami. *Registration required. Participants are encouraged to provide their favorite plant and animal at registration. Please call (708)868-0606.*

**Saturday, 12/27; 9am—11am****Winter Nature Days, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Drop in for fun nature activities! The activities include pinecone bird feeders, walking sticks and more. *This program is intended for families. For more information, please call (847)824-8360.*

**Saturday, 12/27; 9am—11am****Wild about Play, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Are you ready to craft, create, and unleash your wild side? Drop in and take on the challenge! Participants can design enrichment items that will spark joy for our amazing ambassador animals. *Supplies and materials will be provided. For more information, please call (708)839-6897.*

**Sunday, 12/28; 1pm—3pm****Winter Nature Days, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Drop in for fun nature activities! The activities include pinecone bird feeders, walking sticks and more. *This program is intended for families. For more information, please call (847)824-8360.*

**Tuesday, 12/30; 10am—2pm****Winter Play Date, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Drop-in for indoor and outdoor family fun! The activities will include a self-guided activity station and learning through play. *For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

**Tuesday, 12/30; 4pm—8pm****Kwanzaa Celebration, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Chicago**

Join us and celebrate community, honor Pan-African heritage, and embrace the seven principles of Kwanzaa. *This program is presented with Light of Loving Kindness. For more information, please call (224) 763-4317 or visit the website.*

**Friday, 1/2; 10am****New Year's Resolution Walk, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Patrons can fulfill your resolution of being more active by taking a brisk guided walk on our trails. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

**Saturdays & Sundays 1/3 through 1/31; 9am****Beginner Cross-Country Ski Lessons, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Patrons can learn how to ski with a certified Professional Ski Instructor of America. *Registration required. Ages 12 and up. The cost is \$20 per person. This program depends on snow depth. Please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 1/3; 5pm—7pm****Winter Owl Hike, Palos Park Woods-North, Palos Park**

Be on the prowl for owls during this 3-mile night hike in the woods. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

**Sunday, 1/4; 1pm—2:30pm****Family Winter Scavenger Hunt and Campfire, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Enjoy a self-guided scavenger hunt for signs of animals and plant life. Then, relax around a campfire with snacks. *This program is intended for families. For more information, please call (708) 366-6530.*

**Wednesday, 1/7; 6pm—8pm**

**Night Fitness Hike, Sauk Trail Woods-Central, South Chicago Heights**

Join us on a 3.4-mile night hike. *For more information, please visit the website.*

**Thursday, 1/8; 10am & 2 pm**

**Wellness in the Woods: A Fresh Start Walk, Caldwell Woods, Chicago**

Embrace the New Year and your well-being! Join us for a guided walk, then warm up with hot tea. *Registration required. Please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

**Thursday, 1/8; 4pm—8pm**

**Winter Open Climb, Camp Sullivan, Oak Forest**

Patrons can scale Camp Sullivan's indoor climbing wall. *Registration required. Participants must weigh over 40 pounds and sign a waiver. Participants 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Accessible equipment will be available. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Friday, 1/9; 5pm**

**Evening Owl Prowl, Thatcher Woods, River Forest**

Join us on a 3-mile hike. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

**Friday, 1/9; 6:30pm**

**Planetary Painting, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Patrons can view the night sky, learn about celestial myths, and paint a planetary acrylic masterpiece with instruction. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please call (847)381-6592.*

**Saturday, 1/10; 6:45am**

**Sunrise Hike, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Join a naturalist to experience the stillness and peace of a winter sunrise. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. This program will be offered if there is no snowfall. Please call (630)257-2045.*

**Saturday, 1/10; 8:30am**

**Bird and Bagel Bird Walk, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Participants can observe bird feeders while noshing on bagels followed by a guided walk. *Registration required. This program is led by John Elliot from Chicago Bird Alliance. Please call (708)366-6530.*

**Saturday, 1/10; 10:30am—12:30pm**

**Winter Trails and Camp Fire Details, Camp Sullivan, Oak Forest**

Enjoy a short hike, watch a campfire building demo, and relax on the fireside with hot beverages and s'mores. *For more information, please visit the website.*

**Sunday, 1/11; 6:45am**

**Sunrise Hike, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Join us for an early morning hike to witness the beauty of a new day. *For more information, please call (708)839-6897.*

**Sunday, 1/11; 12pm—2pm**

**Conservation at Home: Seed Swap, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Participants can bring and/or take seeds home at this free swap. Experts will be available for advice. *Registration required. Ages 13 and up. Please call (847)824-8360.*

**COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

**CONTRACT COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2025**

**25-0389 PROPOSED CONTRACT** Brackenbox, Inc., Markham, Illinois, Spoils removal services

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**LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2025**

**25-0378 PROPOSED REAPPOINTMENT** Ryen Nagle, Daisy Feidt, and Brandon Hayes, Council Members, Conservation and Policy Council

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**REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2025**

**25-0393 PROPOSED ORDINANCE** An Ordinance to Create a Forest Preserve Near Spring Lake

**25-0394 PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE** Gulzina Eshbaeva, 316 Old Sutton Road, Barrington Hills, Cook County, Illinois

**25-0395 PROPOSED ORDINANCE** An Ordinance to Create a Forest Preserve Near Cermak Woods

**25-0396 PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE** 1016A, LLC, 3803 Gladstone Avenue, Unincorporated Riverside Township, Illinois

**25-0397 PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AMENDMENT** Revised acquisition deal terms, including decreasing the purchasing price, and decreasing the number of acres to be acquired, Description of Real Estate: Part of 20 Freeman Road & 18 N Freeman Road, South Barrington, Illinois

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**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2025**

**25-0426 RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION)** Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation -12/16/2025

**25-0096 REPORT** Report Title: Corporate Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures, Report Period: 1/1/2025 - 10/31/2025

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**RULES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2025**

**25-0430 JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS** regular meeting held on 11/18/2025

**25-0444 JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS** special meeting held on 11/18/2025

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**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2025**

**25-0331 REPORT** Report Title: Chicago Wilderness Alliance Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan,  
Report Period: August 2013 – June 2024

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